



Utah Centennial Photo.

#### THEY FOUGHT INDIANS

## Picture Recalls Early Day Blackhawk War Reunion

But for Indian Jake this picture might never have been taken. It is symbolical of a war that many of the youngsters never heard about. The conflict, too, is vague in the minds of oldsters. Most of the information they have came down from their parents, or they dug it out of history.

There appear to be no actual photographs of this war. War correspondents and photographers were not on the job when it raged. The old photograph, published today, was submitted by Rachel Rasmussen of Mt. Pleasant. It depicts a typical Blackhawk Indian War veterans reunion on the shores of Utah lake, near Springville.

Many years ago, the veterans of this war, which endured for a period of three years, began to get together once a year, usually in August, the month which marked the end of the war in 1868. The veterans and their families gathered from all parts of the state, camped out for days at a time and

recounted Indian tales, and narrow escapes, even more thrilling than radio mysteries.

Like the Grand Army of the Republic, the ranks of this organization became thinner and thinner. But, as the veterans passed out of the picture, their sons and daughters carried on with the tradition of the annual reunion. Every August you may find them assembled at one of the smaller cities for this get-together.

Like their fathers, they recite and recount the exploits of the early days. One of them will tell you that one of the white settlers in Manti pulled Indian Jake from his horse and went home to get a gun. When he returned the Indian had gone but a war had started. Many early settlements were temporarily abandoned, because of the Blackhawk war.

